



News Release

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Luedtke Appointed Public Health Laboratories Director

(Salt Lake City, UT) – The Utah Department of Health (UDOH) announced today that Dr. Patrick Luedtke is the new director of the state’s Public Health Laboratories and deputy director of the Division of Epidemiology and Laboratory Services. Luedtke replaces Dr. Charles Brokopp who left for a position with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, GA.

As director of public health laboratories Luedtke will oversee laboratory testing and technical consultation for health professionals, the public and a number of public health agencies. For example, the state’s laboratories test drinking water samples for the Department of Environmental Quality, conduct DUI testing for the Department of Public Safety and do tests for the Office of the Medical Examiner. In addition, the laboratories test blood from every new baby born in Utah for rare genetic conditions. The labs also test for numerous infectious diseases, such as rabies, hanta virus and measles.

“I am pleased to have Dr. Luedtke join our management team at the UDOH as director of our public health laboratories,” said Dr. David Sundwall, Executive Director, UDOH. “He brings to this position significant experience in laboratory science, medicine and public health – an unusual combination that will serve him well in his new responsibilities.”

Luedtke has his roots in laboratory testing, having worked in the laboratory environment before attending medical school. His career experiences include serving as the laboratory director of both clinical and environmental laboratories while in the Navy. He filled assignments in many parts of the world and took on a broad list of responsibilities during his Navy career as a practicing physician. He most recently held the position as Deputy State Epidemiologist with the Utah Department of Health.

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“I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to merge my training and experience in the clinical, laboratory and public health arenas,” said Luedtke. “I look forward to continuing the important work of Utah’s public health laboratories and meeting the challenges ahead.”

“Dr. Luedtke has a talented group of employees to work with, and under his leadership I’m sure they can become even more productive and capable,” said Sundwall.

Luedtke is a graduate from the Medical College of Wisconsin School of Medicine, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He completed his Internal Medicine Residency training at the Oakland Naval Hospital in Oakland, California. Following his Naval experience, he completed a residency in Preventive Medicine [Occupational] and a Masters in Public Health at the University of Utah. In 2003, he joined the University of Utah Department of Family and Preventive Medicine as an Adjunct Assistant Professor.

Editors Note: A digital photo of Dr. Luedtke can be provided by request. Send request to smcdonald@utah.gov

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The mission of the Utah Department of Health is to protect the public's health through preventing avoidable illness, injury, disability and premature death, assuring access to affordable, quality health care, and promoting healthy lifestyles.